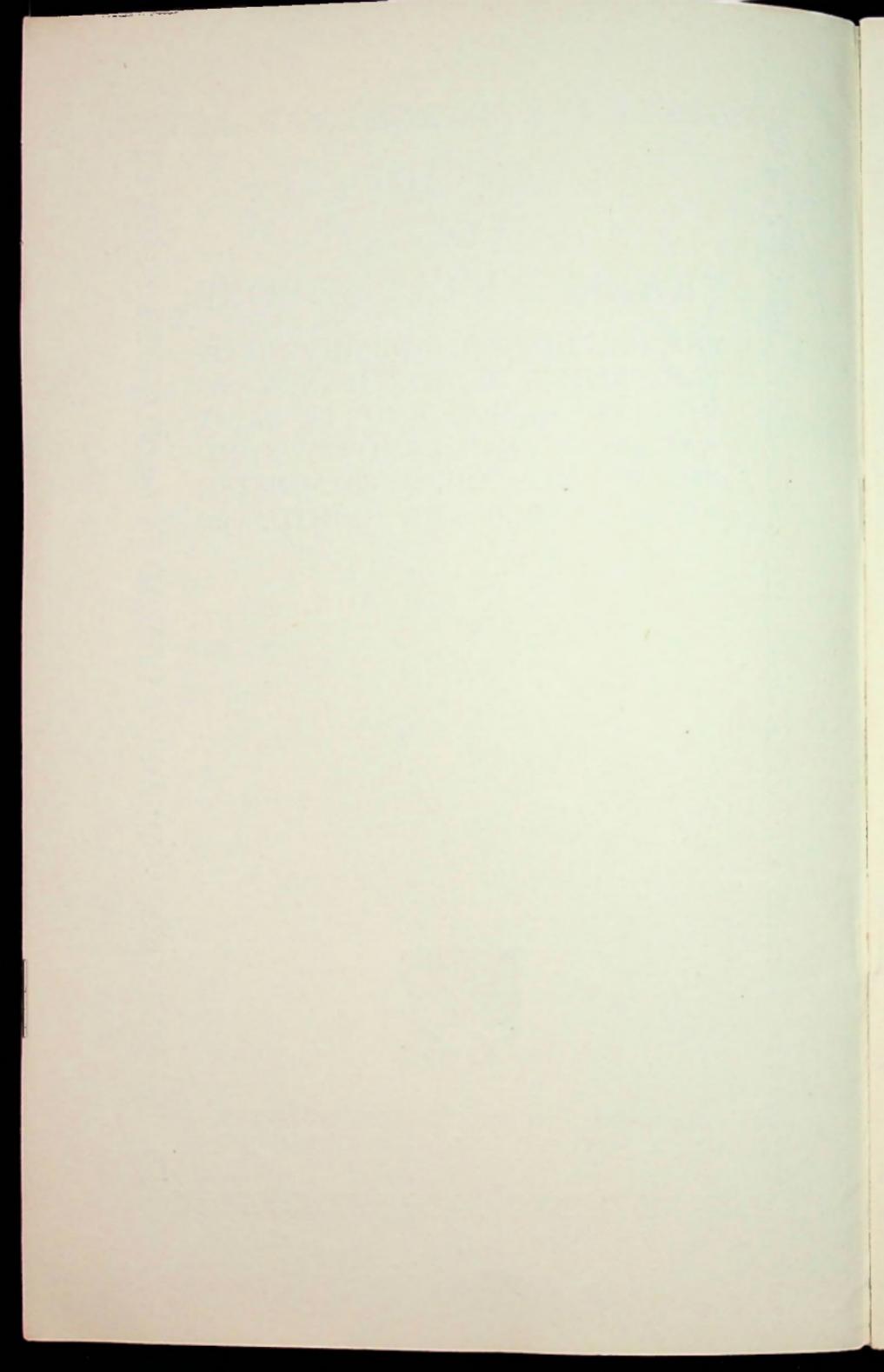


AN ACT  
OF  
PRAISE AND PURPOSE

THE BIRTHDAY THANKSGIVING OF  
THE FAMILY OF TOC H IN WEST-  
MINSTER ABBEY, AND IN SAINT  
MARGARET'S, SAINT ANDREW'S AND  
CHRIST CHURCH, WESTMINSTER  
ON DECEMBER THE EIGHTH, 1928



THEY WERE ALL CLOTHED IN THE LIVERIE  
OF A SOLEMNE AND GREAT FESTIVITIE



# AN ACT OF PRAISE AND PURPOSE

BEING THE ORDER OF SERVICE USED IN  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY, SAINT MARGARET'S,  
SAINT ANDREW'S AND CHRIST CHURCH,  
WESTMINSTER, AT THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL  
OF TOC H ON SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER 1928

*Under the great roof of Westminster Abbey where the family of Toc H  
must needs be widely spread, it will be found that the responses are best made  
slowly and in a clear voice, pausing a little at each comma and stop.*

*In St. Margaret's, St. Andrew's and Christ Church the congregations  
will join in singing all the verses of the hymns, including those here  
marked "Choir only."*

*During the assembly of the congregation the bells of Westminster Abbey  
will be rung, and the organ will play. Processions of the Padres of Toc H  
and of the Banners of Branches and Groups will enter and take their places  
in the Abbey before the service begins.*

*All being assembled, the Hymn following will be sung :*

HAIL joyful Light, O worship and praise  
Father and Son and Spirit Divine ;  
First and the Last, the Ancient of Days  
Pow'r and dominion ever be Thine.

Light of all Light, Thou measureless love  
Guide Thou our feet and lighten our way ;  
Now by Thy Rising lead us above :  
Thine is salvation, Thou art the Day.

High over all, Love sceptred and crown'd  
King everlasting, splendour of Light,  
When we behold Thee let us be found  
Worthy to shine as stars in Thy sight.

*Amen.*

*The Family remains standing while it joins in the Bidding Prayers :*

## BIDDING PRAYERS

PADRE :

Albeit, He may not worthily be praised, who at this time sent Redemption unto His people, yet may we well remember His mercy and truth touching this House so wonderfully made. For He hath helped us, He hath kept us, He hath succoured us, He hath sheltered us, He hath spared us, He hath brought us to this hour.

THE FOUNDER PADRE, AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOUNDATION MEMBERS :

Once we were many ; then were we few ; then again were we many, now become a multitude ; but of the first few, how few we are who still remain ; and of that few, some now grow old, and some are but now gone to be with Him. Yet this is our witness : that once, in the wilderness of war, He prepared a table and a place of joyful gladness for the true-hearted. There, half-forgotten friends walked once again with their forgotten Master ; and, above the tumult of death, overheard a nobler music for the lives of men.

MEMBERS OF 1915-1919 : Thus far our witness.

ALL REPLY : And we know your witness is true.

MEMBERS OF " 1920—? " FOLLOW ON :

Hear now our part. The Spring whereat they drank, has now become a wide river ; gathering from East and West, and stretching well nigh from sea to sea. We also, in our day, would learn to face trial with exaltation ; hate with love ; our passions with His most Holy Passion. We too, would learn the stern and simple way of attaining unto Him, who dwells in stillness at the heart of energy.

PADRE : Let us as one family lift up our hearts.

ALL :

Wherefore we, who are thus gathered together, high and low, rich and poor, one with another, would now compass ourselves about with songs of deliverance, and so pray that, by the mercy of the Most High, out of weakness we may be made strong.

PADRE :

Let us then pray for this our Family, that it may be ordained to bring forth fruit, and that its fruit may remain. Let us ask for the unity of the Spirit in our counsels, the bond of peace among our leaders, and righteousness of life throughout our membership, that the hunger of our hopes may be satisfied in a day of divine destiny.  
And so much the more, as ye see this day approaching, be instant thus to pray :

*All, kneeling, shall say the Lord's Prayer :*

Our Father

- v. It is good to hold fast by God :
- r. For no man hath quickened his own soul.
- v. A friend loveth at all times :
- r. And a brother is born for adversity
- v. Courage, and let us go up.
- r. To the mountain of the Lord.
- v. O House of Jacob, come ye :
- r. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
- v. He will teach us of his ways :
- r. We will walk in his paths.
- v. Teach me to do :
- r. For Thou art my God.
- v. O make us free from softness :
- r. And yet on fire with Love.
- v. For we are not of the night nor of the darkness :
- r. But children of the day.

HYMN.

LET the most Blessed be our guide  
If it be His blessed will,  
Unto His gate, unto His fold,  
Up to His holy hill.

And let Him never suffer us  
To swerve or turn aside,  
From His free grace and holy ways,  
Whate'er shall us betide.

And let Him gather them that shine  
Who left us here behind.  
Lord, make us pray we may be Thine  
With all our heart and mind.

*Amen.*

*All remain standing to offer Praise and Thanksgiving as follows :*

A CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Let us now offer Praise and Thanksgiving.*

Builders of Toc H, our Master bids us offer thanksgiving with those of every age and clime who have endeavoured to build for Him, and have accomplished more than they have known. Let us, then, thank God our Father whose joy is always joy in work well done, each for our tiny share in this brave building.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the men and women, who, having seen the vision, have sought and continue to seek courage and grace to make the dream come true.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the guidance that has never failed to lead us on through failure to a fresh attempt, and for the patience, and impatience too, wherewith Thou hast inspired us.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the dangers so wonderfully averted, for the mistakes so wonderfully made good; for the disappointments out of which has sprung a deeper seeking and a truer learning.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the leaders, our fellow-servants for Christ's sake, for Padres and Pilots, Jobmasters, Secretaries and Wardens; for those serving on Councils and Committees; for all, who by their steadfastness and good example, have won men's wills towards Thee.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

For all the humblest, humdrum duties performed as in Thy sight ; for house and office staffs, both young and old ; for paid and unpaid helpers ; for all by whom this service is performed as one of willing freedom.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for all men and women in the Family of Toc H, who, bearing no special office, and having no special skill, have yet been called to be His fellow-workers.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

*Then follows the Hymn "O Valiant Hearts," during which (in Westminster Abbey) Field Marshal Lord Plumer will be conducted to the steps of the Sanctuary to present the Crosses from the graves of Unknown Soldiers to Cardiff, Coalville, Godalming, Huddersfield, Hulme, Norwich, Stockport, and Wimborne Branches, and to Hinckley and Rowditch Groups, for placing in their Chapels.*

O VALIANT Hearts, who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame ;  
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
Your memory hallowed in the Land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,  
As who had heard God's message from afar ;  
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave  
To save Mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,  
Into the light that nevermore shall fade ;  
Deep your contentment in that blest abode  
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

*Choir only :* Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
While in the frailty of our human clay  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

*Choir only :* Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this  
Like some bright star above the dark abyss ;  
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

## THE DEDICATION OF THE YPRES LAMP.

*The Burgomaster of Ypres accompanied by the Mayor of Westminster and an escort, representative of the Belgian Army, will offer for dedication by the Dean of Westminster the Lamp of Maintenance presented by Toc H to the City of Ypres :*

J'ai l'honneur, M. le Doyen, vous présenter cette Lampe de la part de ma Ville d'Ypres, en vous priant la dédier au mémoire des Soldats belges tombés au champ d'honneur, ainsi que leurs camarades de l'Armée britannique qui ont donné leurs vies en défendant le Sallent d'Ypres.

*The Dean of Westminster, receiving the Lamp, will dedicate it thus :*

On behalf of Toc H I receive this Lamp of Maintenance in memory of the men of the Belgian Army who fell in the Great War and of those their comrades of the British Army, who gave their lives in the defence of Ypres.

And by virtue of the Sacred Office in the Church of God committed to me, and in the Faith of Jesus Christ, I now dedicate it to the service of Our Lord and Master and the furtherance of His Kingdom among men ; in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*All :* These were His servants, in His steps they trod,  
Following through death the martyr'd Son of God :  
Victor He rose ; victorious too shall rise  
They who have drunk His cup of Sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our Dead,  
Whose Cross has bought them and whose Staff has led,  
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing Land  
Commits her Children to Thy gracious hand.

*Amen.*

## THE LESSON.

*Hear the words of the Gospel, written in the Seventh Chapter of St. Matthew, beginning at the twenty-fourth verse.*

WHOSOEVER heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which build his house upon a rock :

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house ; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand :

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house ; and it fell : and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine.

For he taught them, as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

*All shall now kneel to offer their prayers :*

A LITTLE LITANY OF PURPOSE

*Let us offer our prayers for a Right Purpose.*

Let us ask God to help us to do all that He has commanded, that so Toc H may be a true House to Him, not made with human hands alone.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, as a House of Witness for the truth ; a place wherein Thou truly mayest be found.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, all beautiful by the faithful following of Thy laws, arrayed in health and happiness, bold in design and prudent in right order.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, though yet incomplete, yet vindicating, day by day, more fully Thy purpose in its fashioning.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, ever at the heart of life ; unavoidable in the full tide of noon-day ; midmost where life runs strongest ; that those who see it may thank Thee and take courage.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

O GOD, Who hast filled the earth with the glory of Thy presence, and hast led Thy servants of old to build up Talbot House to be Thy dwelling-place, grant that Thy sons and daughters who come within its influence may ever find Thee here ; and going to and fro may truly take Thee with them. May we so build our lives that they may also be Houses wherein Thy Spirit dwells, filled with that strength and beauty which only comes from Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Mindful of many brethren in distant lands, who keep festival with us to-night, let us pray.*

O ETERNAL GOD, who watchest over us all, grant that the friendships formed between us here in Toc H may neither through sin be broken, nor hereafter through worldly cares be forgotten ; but that, bound together across the world by the unseen chain of Thy love, we may be drawn nearer to Thee and nearer to each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### THE COLLECTION.

*During the singing of the following Hymn, the Collection will be taken, to be given (after defraying the expenses of this Service) as a Birthday Offering to Neville Talbot for the work of the Pretoria Diocese.*

FOR all the Saints who from their labours rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,  
Thy Name, O Jesu be for ever blest.  
Alleluia !

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might ;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight ;  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light.

Alleluia !

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the Saints, who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia !

*Choir only* : O blest communion ! fellowship Divine !  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine ;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia !

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.  
Alleluia !

*Choir only* : The golden evening brightens in the west ;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest,  
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.  
Alleluia !

But lo ! there breaks a yet more glorious day !  
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array ;  
The King of Glory passes on His way.  
Alleluia !

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia !

*Amen.*

#### THE PROCESSION.

YE watchers and ye holy ones,  
Bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,  
Raise the glad strain, Alleluya !  
Cry out Dominions, Prinedoms, Powers,  
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya !

*Choir only* : O higher than the Cherubim,  
More glorious than the Seraphim,  
Lead their praises, Alleluya !  
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,  
Most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya !

*Choir only:* Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
Ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,  
Alleluya, Alleluya !  
Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,  
All Saints triumphant, raise the song,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya !  
O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
Supernal anthems echoing,  
Alleluya, Alleluya !  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya !  
*Amen.*

*At the Grave of the Unknown Warrior the Procession will pause, while the following is said :*

v. Well done, thou good and faithful servant.  
r. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

*Let us remember our Elder Brethren.*

O THOU, Who art Heroic Love, keep alive in our hearts that adventurous spirit which makes men scorn the way of safety, so that Thy will be done. For so only, O Lord, shall we be worthy of those courageous souls who in every age have ventured all in obedience to Thy call, and for whom the trumpets sounded on the other side ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O ENTER then His gates with praise,  
Approach with joy His courts unto ;  
Praise, laud and bless His Name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

*Choir only :* For why ? the Lord our God is good ;  
His Mercy is for ever sure,  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
The God Whom heaven and earth adore,  
From men and from the Angel-host.  
Be praise and glory evermore.

*Amen.*

*All shall now kneel for the concluding prayers.*

*Let us join in the Prayer of Toc H.*

O God, Who hast so wonderfully made Toc H, and set men in it to see their duty as Thy will, teach us to live together in love and joy and peace ; to check all bitterness ; to disown discouragement ; to practise thanksgiving, and to leap with joy to any task for others.

Strengthen the good thing thus begun ; that with gallant and high-hearted happiness, we may work for Thy kingdom in the wills of men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

- v. The Lord be with you.
- r. And with thy spirit.
- v. Let us bless the Lord.
- r. Thanks be to God.

Now the God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead that great Master of men by the blood of the everlasting covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make us perfect in every good work to do His will. *Amen.*

*The Congregation are asked to remain in their places until directed to leave  
by the Stewards.*

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